

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 NAS-01 NSF-01 IO-13

OES-06 /111 W

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R 301934Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7058

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IS, GW, WB, TW, SF

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHERS' CONGRESS: WEST BERLIN, ISRAEL, TAIWAN,
SOUTH KOREA, SOUTH AFRICA

REF: MOSCOW 11990 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. GEOGRAPHERS AND FRG EMBASSY THROW FURTHER LIGHT
ON INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AT INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS
REPORTED REFTEL: FRG HAS COMPLAINED TO MFA ABOUT SEPARATE
TREATMENT OF WEST BERLIN, AND SOME ISRAELI INVITEES HAVE
EVIDENTLY BEEN ADMITTED. END SUMMARY.

2. FRG POL MINISTER-COUNSELOR ARNOT HAS GIVEN FOLLOWING ACCOUNT
OF BERLIN PROBLME AT THE CONGRESS. IT HAS TWO ASPECTS. BERLIN
PARTICIPANT AT CONGRESS, A PROFESSOR FROM FREE UNIVERSITY, WAS
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GIVEN A SEPARATE REGISTRATION DESK AND SEPARATE LISTING WHEN

CONGRESS OPENED. SECOND ISSUE IS TREATMENT OF BERLIN COMMERCIAL FIRMS PARTICIPATING IN COMBINED EXHIBITION FOR GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS AND CARTOGRAPHIC CONGRESS SCHEDULED TO OPEN NEXT WEEK. BERLIN EXHIBITORS APPLIED DIRECTLY TO SOVIET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BUT THEIR EXHIBITS ARE ORGANIZED BY AN FRG FIRM ACTING UNDER FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY. FRG EMBASSY HAD WARNED SOVIET ORGANIZERS THAT IT ASSUMED THERE WOULD BE NO TROUBLE WITH TREATMENT OF BERLIN, AND RECEIVED WHAT IT THOUGHT WERE ASSURANCES TO THIS EFFECT. WHEN EXHIBITORS ARRIVED THEY FOUND THEY WERE UNDER BERLIN FLAG, AND WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO PUT UP SMALL SIGN QUOTING QA WHICH IS USUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO SOVIETS UNDER EXPERTS' AGREEMENT, SOVIET MANAGEMENT ASKED THEM TO REMOVE SIGN ON GROUNDS FLAG WAS SUFFICIENT.

3. FRG DCM LOEWE CALLED WITH ARNOT ON MFA THRID EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT CHIEF BONDARENKO JULY 27 TO COMPLAIN THAT REMOVAL OF SIGN CONSTITUTED VIOLATION OF EXPERTS' AGREEMENT AND TO ASK FOR REMOVAL OF BERLIN FLAG; WITH REGARD TO THE GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS, THEY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FLAG WOULD BE NOT AMONG THOSE POSTED IN FRONT OF MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY SITE. BONDARENKO CLAIMED BERLIN EXHIBITORS DID NOT FALL UNDER EXPERTS' AGREEMENT BECAUSE THEY HAD APPLIED SEPARATELY. GERMANS REFUSED TO ACCEPT THIS CLAIM ON GROUND THAT APPLICATION DID NOT DETERMINE VALIDITY OF EXPERTS' AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION. WITH REGARD TO CONGRESS FLAG, SOVIETS CALLED BACK JULY 28 TO SAY THAT NO BERLIN FLAG WOULD BE SHOWN SINCE APPLICATIONS ARE INDIVIDUAL AND THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS; ON REGISTRATION, THEY ADVISED GERMANS NOTTO EXAGGERATE IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE.

4. GERMANS REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOT ENTITLED TO TREAT BERLIN AS A SEPARATE STATE AT THE CONGRESS, AND THAT ATTEMPTS TO DO SO BY USING THE CITY SYMBOL FOR DEMONSTRATIVE EFFECT VIOLATE WARTIME AND POSTWAR AGREEMENTS ON STATUS OF THE CITY. THEY URGED SOVIETS NOT TO MISUSE THEIR ROLE AS HOSTS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.

5. ON ISRAELIS, ARNOT CONFIRMED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT FIFTEEN ISRAELIS HAD BEEN INVITED TO CONGRESS AND THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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PERHAPS TWO-THRIDS OF THEM HAD TURNED UP IN VIENNA TO WAIT FOR SOVIET VISAS. OF THESE, SEVEN HAD RECEIVED VISAS AND WERE ATTENDING CONGRESS. REFUSALS, WHERE THEY HAD OCCURRED, HAD BEEN MADE "ON INDIVIDUAL GROUNDS;" ACCORDING TO ARNOT.

6. GEOGRAPHERS ATTENDING CONGRESS HAVE IMPRESS THAT TAWIANESE DID NOT PRESS EFFORTS TO ATTEND, AND THAT WO

SOUTH KOREANS INVITED HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ATTEND BECAUSE
SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON (WHERE THEY WISHED TO APPLY,
SINCE THEY WERE IN U.S.) HAD IGNORED THEIR REQUESTS TO
BE RECEIVED, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO APPLY FOR
VISAS. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFO ON SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEMS.
MATLOCK

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